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Lot 2

Version of Interrogation given to Warren Commission By Mexican Government

①

On November 23, 1963, one day after the assassination of John F. Kennedy, the Central Intelligence Agency's Mexico City ~~Headquarters~~ suggested to Mexican officials that they arrest Sylvia Irado De Duran. (Mexi 7029 <sup>to Mexican officials</sup>, Nov. 23, 1963; Note to Luis Echevarria, November 23, 1963.) Mexico City ~~Headquarters~~ <sup>STATION</sup> asked that Sylvia Irado de Duran be held incommunicado until she <sup>told</sup> gave the Mexican officials all <sup>she knew about Lee Harvey Oswald</sup> ~~(the information)~~ <sup>OSWALD</sup>.

**ARRESTED**

The Mexican government ~~directed to arrest~~ Sylvia Irado de Duran <sup>on</sup> the same day. Captain Fernando Gutierrez Baines, Assistant Director of the Federal Security police interrogated her at 6:00 p.m. that evening (CE 2121, p. 35). [Ms. Duran stated that she ~~began to~~ became the ~~temporary~~ <sup>acting</sup> Secretary to the Consul, <sup>Eusebio Ayala</sup> three months prior to the assassination of John F. Kennedy ~~as a result of~~ <sup>due to</sup> the death of Maximilian Olvera, who had been occupying ~~that~~ <sup>the</sup> position]. (ibid p. 37)

She stated that in ~~at~~ late September or early October of 1963, a North American, by the name of Lee Harvey Oswald, <sup>appeared at the Cuban Consulate and</sup> applied for <sup>an</sup> ~~a~~ <sup>interest</sup> visa to Russia <sup>through Cuba</sup>. [Oswald presented evidence that he had been in Russia for three years], that he was married to a Russian woman and also that he was <sup>the leader</sup> ~~secretary~~ of an organization in New Orleans called "Fair Play for Cuba". [Oswald stressed to Sylvia Duran

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that his visa application should be accepted as he was a friend  
 of the Cuban Revolution. <sup>(del p. 35)</sup> Sylvia Duran stated that then, in compliance  
 with her duties, she <sup>had Oswald</sup> filled out the appropriate application. <sup>(del p. 39)</sup> [Oswald  
 then left and returned in the afternoon with the necessary  
 photographs.] <sup>(del p. 39)</sup> Mrs. Duran stated that at that time, exceeding her  
 duties, she telephoned the Russian Consulate because of her interest  
 in facilitating the handling of the Russian visa for Lee Harvey Oswald. <sup>(del p. 39)</sup>  
 The Russian Embassy <sup>told</sup> ~~announced~~ her that there <sup>would be a delay of</sup> ~~operation~~ ~~about~~ ~~four~~  
 approximately four months in processing the case, which annoyed Lee  
 Harvey Oswald since, according to his statements, he was in a great  
 hurry to obtain <sup>a</sup> ~~visa~~ to travel to Russia. [He insisted on his right  
 to ~~the~~ <sup>obtain a</sup> ~~visa~~ in view of his background, loyalty and his activities on  
 behalf of the Cuban movement.] <sup>(del p. 39)</sup> When Oswald understood  
 that it was not possible to give him a Cuban visa without ~~his~~ previously  
 obtaining a Russian visa, he became extremely angry. <sup>(del p. 39)</sup> At this point, Mrs.  
 Duran stated, <sup>that</sup> she called Consul Agene, who, at that time was in his  
 private office [accompanied by his <sup>upcoming</sup> ~~replacement~~ <sup>attendant</sup> Alfredo Mirabal]. <sup>(del p. 40)</sup> Mr. Agene came  
 out of his office and argued with Oswald in English. <sup>(del p. 40)</sup> ~~They argued and~~  
 [Mr. Agene told <sup>Oswald</sup> ~~him~~ that a person like him, instead of using the Cuban  
 Revolution did it harm.] <sup>(del p. 40)</sup> Oswald at that point stated that ~~there was~~ <sup>he had two</sup> ~~far~~

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(2)

reasons for requesting his visa with urgency: one, that his <sup>Mexican</sup> passport ~~was~~ expired soon; and two, that it ~~was~~ <sup>he needed to reach Russia soon</sup> <sup>(id. p. 40)</sup> <sup>was</sup> ~~the~~ Duran stated that in spite of the argument she gave Oswald a piece of paper with her name and <sup>Consulate</sup> <sup>(11-28-47)</sup> phone number on it. (id. 40) [She also initiated the handling of his visa application by sending it to the Cuban Ministry of Foreign <sup>Relations</sup>, from which a reply was received in the normal manner some fifteen to thirty days later approving the issuance of <sup>AN INTERPASSIT</sup> visa, <sup>on the condition that he</sup> ~~but conditioning it on his~~ previously obtaining a Russian <sup>passport</sup> (visa).] (id. p. 40)

[Mrs. Duran stated that she does not recall whether Oswald subsequently called her on the Consulate phone number which she had given him.] (id. 40) [Sylvia Duran ~~the~~ stated that all the conversations that she and Enrique Azcue had with Oswald were in the English language since Oswald did not speak any Spanish.] (id. p. 40)

[Finally, she stated that upon seeing Lee Harvey Oswald's photograph in the newspaper, she immediately recognized and identified it as being the same person that she remembered as Lee Harvey Oswald.] (id. p. 40)

~~Sylvia Duran was released Nov. 24, 1963 and rearrested Nov. 26, 1963, when the Mexican government found that Sylvia was attempting to leave Mexico for Havana (Cable from Ambassadors to Headquarters, Nov. 27, 1963, Mex 7104, CIA # 482; Cable from <sup>Mexican</sup> ~~the~~ Station to Headquarters, Nov. 27, 1963, Mex 7101, CIA # 492) During the interrogation she remembered~~

~~denied he wore ~~any~~ glasses. (Cable from Mexico~~

## Original Signed Statement of Sylvia Duran Interrogation by Mexican Government

Sylvia Duran was arrested on Nov 23 and interrogated at 6:00 p.m. (see previous section) At that time her pertinent statements about the assassination and Lee Harvey Oswald were written down by the Mexican government and Sylvia signed the statement. They <sup>Separate</sup> ~~were~~ Upon learning about the assassination she and her husband speculated that Kennedy may have been assassinated for racial reasons. When she became aware that the assassin was Lee Harvey Oswald, she ascertained that it was the same man that about two months earlier had been to the Cuban Consulate to solicit an intransit visa to Russia, having taken his name from the special documentation he presented: he was married to a Russian woman and belonged to the "Fair Play For Cuba Committee"; she checked the data in the Consulate archives and then she became certain that it was the same individual, who was blonde, short, dressed inelegantly and whose face turned red when angry. This visa was denied ~~him~~, the Consul told him, <sup>because</sup> that to obtain <sup>a visa</sup> from the Cuban government it was imperative that, <sup>personally</sup> he obtain <sup>a visa</sup> from <sup>the</sup> Soviet Consulate. Since obtaining a visa from the Soviets took four months and Oswald had to leave Mexico soon, <sup>Oswald</sup> he became excited, and <sup>the</sup> Duran who had an argument with him.

The only aid she could give Oswald was ~~he~~ advising that he go to the Soviet Consul, and also calling the person in charge of the office. The Soviet official told her that they would have to consult Moscow, which ~~would take~~ <sup>Oswald</sup> four months. That afternoon, ~~she~~ <sup>Oswald</sup> returned to the Cuban Consulate and Sylvia Duran confirmed that he could only get a Cuban visa, <sup>only after</sup> ~~when~~ he received a Russian visa. She ~~also~~ gave Oswald her name and business phone number but never gave him her address because she had no reason to give it to him. She knew that phoning the <sup>Soviet</sup> Consulate was not one of her duties and that if she did so she did it only to help Oswald. She gave him her <sup>business</sup> phone number only because he would have to call subsequently to check whether he had obtained a visa. He never called back. (Blind Memo re Lee Harvey Oswald & Sylvia Duran,

November 26, 1963, CIA #473.)

See next page  
Sylvia Duran, <sup>protector</sup> was released Nov. 24, 1963. She was reunited  
NOT ALL THAT CLEAR, IS IT?  
Nov. 26<sup>27</sup>(?) 1963 when the Mexican government <sup>alleged</sup> ~~that~~ Sylvia was  
attempting to leave Mexico for Havana (Cable from Mexico Headquarters to  
Headquarters, Nov 27, 1963, Mexi 7104, CIA #482, Cable from Mexican  
Station to Headquarters, Nov 27, 1963, Mexi 7101, CIA #493) During the

glasses (Cable from Mexico City Station to Director, Dec. 12, 1963, Mexi 7364, CIA No. 552558) Otherwise though there was no addition to her original story (ibid)

Sylvia Duran was released Nov. 24, 1963. She was reunited Nov. 2, 1963, when the Mexican government alleged that Sylvia Duran was attempting to leave Mexico and travel to Havana. (Cable from Mexico City Station to Headquarters, November 27, 1963, Mexi 7104, CIA # 482; Cable from Mexican City Station to Headquarters, Nov. 27, 1963, Mexi 7101, CIA # 493)

The Mexican government told Mrs. Duran on this occasion that they were holding her to protect her. (Interview conducted by H.S.C.A., June 6, 1978 in Mexico City) Subsequently, <sup>about her period</sup> during her detainment, Duran stated, "They were very rough this time... they repeated the same questions but they were more, how do you say, evil. And they wanted to know exactly what I have done in Cuba, the people that I met there, everything. They were asking me questions about all the people that were working in the Embassy and this time I wanted to go to the bathroom and they wouldn't take me and it was longer, because it was from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. (Interview conducted by H.S.C.A.,

June 6, 1978 in Mexico City). According to the Mexican officials that detained



ON ALL THE EXPLANATIONS: "OR" THE  
MEXICAN GOVERNMENT ~~COULD HAVE~~  
~~HAD A DIFFERENT STATEMENT, OR MORE~~  
~~EXTENSIVE NOTES~~ <sup>that there was a stenographer present all the time she was questioned.</sup>

The following material found in the Warren Commission

H.S.C.A. Staffers  
(Interviewed H.S.C.A.  
Duran  
Jun 6, 1978  
W. Mex. Co. - C. H.

⑦

Also  
C. Thomas

Exhibit 2121 was not in the Mexican government's <sup>interrogation</sup> report of Sylvia

Duran:

1. Mrs Duran stated that she became the secretary to the Consul three months prior to the assassination of John F. Kennedy due to the death of Mainamur Alvarez, who had been occupying the position. [WCE W42121 p.37]

<sup>although</sup> Explanation: Mrs Duran did not make this statement in her signed affidavit ~~but~~ the Mexican government could easily have discerned the above <sup>since</sup> because it actually occurred.

2. Oswald presented evidence that he had been in Russia for three years. [ibid p.39]

Explanation: Although Mrs Duran did not state this in her signed statement the Mexicans could attribute it to her because it appeared on Oswald's Cuban visa application. Insert. [See attached]

3. Oswald stressed to Sylvia Duran that his visa application should be accepted as he was a friend of the Cuban Revolution. [ibid p.39]

Explanation: It is possible that after Lee Harvey Oswald stated that he belonged to the "Fair Play For Cuba Committee" and then signed <sup>about getting a visa</sup> that the Mexican government could have discerned that he had falsely stated that his visa application should be accepted as he was a



Lt. 7: Secretary at Cuban Embassy  
Lt. 9: Cultural Attache

Duran she remembered Oswald perfectly and denied

he wore glasses. (Cable from Mexico City Station to

Director, Dec. 12, 1963, Mexi 7364, CIA No. 557-558) Otherwise the

Mexican officials still there was no addition to her original story. (ibid)

Also, in a cable from the Mexico City Station to Headquarters on Nov. 23, chief of Station Winston Scott writes that Ceballos told him that Sylvia Duncan stated that Lee Harvey Oswald showed her a United States passport showing a long stay in USSR. [Cable chief of Station to Headquarters, Nov. 23, 1963, Mexi 7046, CIA No. 424; Chronology of Anne Goodpastor, entry no. 59, Nov. 23, 1963, CIA No. 638]

0299

4. Oswald then left and returned in the afternoon with the necessary photographs. (ibid p. 39)

Explanation: The Select Committee on Assassinations can not ~~understand~~ <sup>explain</sup> why this statement is attributed to Mrs. Duran <sup>since</sup> ~~if~~ nowhere in her signed statement she mentions photographs. The only corroborating piece of information the Committee found was that Mr. Eusebio Azcue, <sup>the</sup> Cuban Consul in an interview on with the House Select Committee on Assassinations stated that Oswald did not bring a photograph on his first visit to the Cuban Consulate and thus was forced to return the following morning with one. (HSCA int Eusebio Azcue, )

5. Oswald insisted on his right to obtain a visa in view of his background, loyalty and his activities on behalf of the Cuban movement. (ibid p. 39)

Explanation: See number three

6. Mrs. Duran stated the ~~called~~ <sup>she</sup> called Consul Azcue, who at that time was in his private office accompanied by his upcoming replacement Alfredo Mirabal (ibid p. 40)

Explanation: The House Select Committee on Assassinations found no evidence of this statement. It is not in Mrs. Duran's signed

stated that he was alone in his office when Sylvia Duran

called him to speak to Oswald. Mrs. Duran stated to H.S.C.A. <sup>staffers</sup> that ~~she~~ <sup>she</sup> ~~asked~~ <sup>asked</sup> ~~Agene~~ <sup>Agene</sup> ~~that~~ <sup>that</sup> to speak to Oswald. (Interview H.S.C.A., June 6, 1978 in Mexico City)

7. Mr. Agene told Oswald that a person like him, instead of aiding the Cuban Revolution, did it harm. (ibid p. 40)

Explanation: Both Mr. Duran and Mr. Agene told H.S.C.A. staffers that Agene ~~it is possible that the Mexican government could~~ made this statement.

~~assume, in light of the argument between Oswald and Agene, that~~

~~Agene could make such a statement.~~

8. She also initiated the handling of his visa application by

pending it to the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Relations, from which a reply was received in the normal manner some fifteen

to thirty days later & approving the issuance of a visa, on the condition that he previously obtain a Russian visa. (ibid p. 40)

Explanation: <sup>Insert explanation to p. 4 of the above</sup> ~~Although this statement~~ <sup>Mrs. Duran stated that</sup> ~~is not in Mrs. Duran's~~ signed statement, it actually occurred and the Mexican government could / have attributed / the / statement to / her. ~~XXXXXX~~

9. Mrs. Duran stated that she does not recall whether Oswald subsequently called her on the Consulate phone number which she had given him. (ibid p. 40)

Explanation: Mrs. Duran never made the above statement. In fact

statement she said that she had given <sup>Oswald</sup> ~~him~~

her business phone number because he would have to call subsequently to check whether he had obtained a visa, but that

he had never called back. Ms. Duran also told H.S.C.A. staffers that she knows that Oswald never called back. (Interview Sylvia Duran, June 6, 1978, WFO: (A))

10. Sylvia Duran stated that all the conversations that she and Emilio Azcar had with Oswald were in the English language since Oswald did not speak any Spanish. (ibid p. 40)

Insert at p. 7  
Sylvia Duran + Emilio Azcar both committed the crime in English

Explanation: Sylvia does not state this in her signed statement. The Mexican government and the Central Intelligence Agency both had information from

the tags that a person who called the Soviet Embassy, allegedly Oswald, spoke Spanish in some of his conversations (see section on Russian Embassy tags) <sup>for clarification</sup> ~~Keep as is till our conclusions.~~

11. Sylvia Duran stated that upon seeing Lee Harvey Oswald's photograph in the newspapers, she immediately recognized and identified it as being the same person that she remembered as Lee Harvey Oswald (ibid p. 41). <sup>Begin with "In. they say the above in her signed statement"</sup>

Explanation: <sup>also</sup> Mrs. Duran did not ~~make this statement~~ that she said

that when she became aware that the assassin was Lee Harvey Oswald, she ascertained that it was the same man that about <sup>two</sup> ~~about~~ months earlier had been to the Cuban Consulate to solicit an entransit visa to Russia, having taken his name from the special

and belonged to the Fair Play for Cuba Committee; she checked the data in the Consulate archives and then she became certain that it was the same individual who was blonde, short, dressed unelegantly and whose face turned red when angry. (Blind Memo re Lee Harvey Oswald + Sylvia Duran; November 26, 1963, CIA # 473) ~~But~~ In a cable from the Mexico City Station to Headquarters on Nov. 23, 1963, Chief of Station Winston Scott writes that Ceballos told him - that Sylvia Duran stated that she had recognized Oswald on TV November 22 and had told her husband, Horatio Duran, about the visit. (Cable Chief of Station to Headquarters, Nov. 23, 1963, Mexis 7046, CIA No. 426; Chronology of Anne Goodpasture, entry no 59, Nov. 23, 1963, CIA No. 638)

The following material found in Sylvia Duran's signed statement never made its way to the Warren Commission's Exhibit 2121.

1. When she became aware that the assassin was Lee Harvey Oswald, she ascertained that it was the same man that about two months earlier had been to the Cuban Consulate to solicit an intransit visa to Russia, having taken his name from the special documentation he presented: he was married to a Russian woman and belonged to the "Fair Play For Cuba Committee"; she checked the data in the Consulate archives and then she became certain that it was the same individual, who was blonde, short, dressed unelegantly and whose face turned red when angry. (Blind Memo re Lee Harvey Oswald + Sylvia Duran, 12/26/63, CIA # 473)

Explanation: The statement attributed to Mrs. Duran in the interrogative report given to the Warren Commission was not the above but the following: Sylvia Duran stated that upon seeing Lee Harvey Oswald's photograph in the newspapers, she immediately recognized and identified it as being the same person that she remembered as Lee Harvey Oswald. Never did she mention <sup>any</sup> to the WC that Duran had described Oswald as blonde + short.

2. Sylvia Duran's original statement to the Mexican officials it

appears that Oswald may have had the argument with the Consul on his first visit to the Consulate and <sup>then that afternoon</sup> that later he returned



Explanation: This can be explained ~~in terms of~~<sup>b2</sup> the ~~way~~<sup>manner</sup> the original is written. It is just statements and is not in any chronological order. (This question will be explained when we question her in Mexico City.)

3. The only aid she could give Oswald was advising him to go to the Soviet Consul. (Blind Memo re Lee Harvey Oswald & Sylvia Dusan 12/26/63, CIA # 473)

Explanation: In Warren Commission Exhibit 2121, received from the Mexican government, it appears that the Consul flatly rejected Oswald's visa application and never offered him any advice.

4. Although not in Mrs. Dusan's <sup>signed</sup> statement <sup>nor in WC 2121</sup>, <sup>see a 11/1/63 cable</sup> disseminated to the FBI, State Department and the White House, Headquarters quotes from the Mexican police report of Dusan's interrogation: "The Consul then spoke by telephone to the person in charge of that office, and was informed that the case would have to be referred to Moscow and that there would be a four month delay. (Cable Headquarters to <sup>FBI</sup> State & White House, <sup>11/23, 1963</sup> DIR 85758.) The message above was verified by an interview <sup>of Embassy agent</sup> conducted by the HSCA.

Lie

Sylvia Duman stated that Lee Harvey Oswald visited the Cuban Consulate on only two occasions. She stated that the first visit occurred on the morning of a day in either late September or early October. The second visit occurred on the afternoon of the same date. The

(see previous section)

House Select Committee on Assassinations has determined that ~~these two~~ <sup>OSWALD VISITED</sup> ~~visits occurred~~ <sup>\*(Possibly 1 ON 26 + 1 ON 27?)</sup> on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 1963. A phone call from Sylvia Duman

to the Soviet Embassy at 4:05 p.m. that afternoon appears on the transcripts of the electronic surveillance of the Soviet Embassy, in which she discusses

Oswald's case with a Soviet official who asks her phone number to call her back. (Classified Staff Summary of Review of CIA Documents, 3/9/78

pp 6-7, CIA Nos. 320-321; Cable from Mexico City to the Director, 11/23/63, Mexi 7025, CIA Nos. 218-219; CIA Transcript from Russian Embassy, 9/27/63, CIA No. 27) At 4:26 p.m.

an unidentified Soviet Consulate official called Sylvia Duman inquiring whether the American citizen had been to the Cuban Consulate office. Sylvia responded affirmatively, responding that the American was at the office at

that time. (Classified Staff Summary of Review of CIA Documents, 3/9/78, pp 7-10, CIA Nos. 321-324; Cable from Mexico City to the Director, 11/23/63,

Mexi 7025, CIA Nos. 219-221; CIA Transcript from Russian Embassy, 9/27/63, CIA No. 30). In addition the visa application is dated September 27<sup>th</sup> and

on Assassinations stated that he recalled, <sup>that</sup> Oswald visited the  
 AT LEAST ONCE ON THE DAY THE APPLICATION WAS DATED, THE  
 Cuban Consulate / ~~on the~~ 27<sup>th</sup> of September (

The House Select Committee on Assassinations has also  
 found evidence that shows that Oswald visited the Cuban  
 Consulate not ~~two times~~ <sup>three</sup> as Sylvia Duran stated but three  
 times. A phone call from Sylvia Duran to the Soviet Embassy  
 at 11:51 a.m. on Saturday Sept. 28, 1963 appears in the transcripts  
 of the electronic surveillance of the Soviet Consulate, in which <sup>Ms. Duran</sup> she  
 states <sup>that</sup> there was an American Citizen <sup>LATER  
FOID AS  
(Oswald)</sup> at the Cuban Consulate who  
 had previously visited the Soviet Consulate, she subsequently put him on  
 the line and he conversed with the Soviet official in Russian.

(Classified Staff Summary of Review of CIA Documents, 3/9/78, pp 10-12,  
 CIA Nos. 324326; CIA Transcript from Russian Embassy, 9/28/63, CIA No. 25)

Central Intelligence Agency Cables Re Duran

MCS

On November 23, 1963,

① The Central Intelligence Agency sent

a note to <sup>Luis</sup> Echavarria requesting that he arrest Sylvia Truett de Duran. <sup>immediately</sup>

The agency stated that she was a Mexican citizen who had just Oswald

in touch with the Soviet Embassy. They gave Echavarria a <sup>note</sup> ~~letter~~ with

Duran's address, her mother's address, her brother's address, her business places, <sup>number</sup>

her home phone number and her place of work. The Central Intelligence Agency <sup>MCS</sup> also

suggested that Duran be held incommunicado until she <sup>could</sup> ~~can~~ be questioned on the

matter. (Note to Luis Echavarria to arrest Sylvia Duran, November 23, 1963,

CIA No 444; Cable re Oswald, Duran, Mesa 7029, November 23, 1963, CIA No 441; Chronology prepared by Anne Hodgastine, Wx 7241, entry 36, November 23, 1963, CIA No 635)

② On the same day the <sup>Chief</sup> Chief of Station, Winston Scott, received a <sup>tele</sup> phone

call from Jack Whitten in Washington Langley Headquarters asking that

Sylvia Duran not be arrested. Winston Scott told Jack Whitten that it

was too late, that he could not recall <sup>the</sup> request and that Mr (Whitten)

should already have received a cable which stated that Echavarria had

already been told to arrest Sylvia, as a Mexican initiative.

(Note Whitten by Chief of Station re phone call with Jack Whitten,

Nov. 23, 1963; Chronology prepared by Anne Hodgastine, Wx 7241, entry 37, CIA no. 635) <sup>Nov 23,</sup>

③ ~~Let~~ ~~on Nov 23, 1963~~, Winston Scott telephoned Luis Echevarria and stated that we would hope that her arrest would be kept absolutely secret, that no information from her is published or leaked, that all information from her is called to Washington immediately through me, and that his direct could statements not spread to any leftist groups. (Chief of Station phone call to Luis Echevarria, Nov 23, 1963, CIA No 440)

Chronology of Anne Hoodgasture, entry 46 November 23, 1963, CIA No 636; Flash Cable from Karamessini to Mexico City Station, NOV 23, 1963, DIR 84916, CIA No. 433]

The Central Intelligence Agency's interest in Sylvia Duran is readily apparent. First, hoping to acquire information on Lee Harvey Oswald from Sylvia Duran, they ask the Mexican government to arrest her. Then, <sup>possibly</sup> fearing that Sylvia Duran's arrest might become public knowledge, thus endangering the Mexican <sup>STATION'S</sup> ~~headquarters~~ <sup>TAP OPS(?)</sup> ~~cover~~, Washington headquarters, thru Jack Whitten, asked Mexico City not to press for Sylvia Duran's arrest. When Washington headquarters explained that the request had already gone out headquarters then pressed for "absolute secrecy" from the Mexican government.

④ Also on November 23, 1963, Echevarria called the Mexico Chief of Station Winston Scott with the first reports of the Sylvia Duran interrogation. He stated that Sylvia Duran had given a

(C) written statement attesting to two <sup>Oswald visits</sup> <sup>Sylvia stated that LHO</sup> visits by Oswald, who showed

her U.S. passports depicting a long stay in the U.S.S.R. (see Sylvia Explanation can be inserted from there.  
Duran write-up p.7). She also stated that she recognized Oswald

on TV Nov 22 and told her husband, Hnatia Duran about the Explanation can be inserted from there  
visits. (see Sylvia Duran Write-up p.9)

On November 24, 1963 in a cable from the Mexico City Station to Headquarters, which consisted of additions or amendments to what Chevarria had already told Winston Scott about Sylvia Duran's interrogation, the

(C) following was attributed to Sylvia Duran: The passport Oswald showed her <sup>Explanation can be inserted from there</sup> was still valid (for the U.S.S.R.). (see Sylvia Duran write-up

p.7). Duran had the impression that Oswald had or believed he had made arrangements in Washington whereby instructions would be sent to the Soviet Embassy in Mexico to issue him a Soviet entry visa in a manner by which he would not have to visit the Soviet Embassy himself. (Cable from Mexico City Station to Headquarters, Nov 24, 1963, Mexis 7054,

CIA no. 423-424; Chronology of Anne Goodpasture, Nov 24, 1963, entry no. 71, CIA No. 641)

Though this statement is attributed to Sylvia Duran as early as Nov. 24, 1963, it does not appear in either Sylvia Duran's signed

statement nor in CE 2121 given to the Warren Commission by the INFO from TRANSCRIPTS.

Insert

18a

What appears in the transcripts is that Sylvia had sent the American to the Soviet Embassy stating that his acquiring a Cuban visa was contingent on his previously acquiring a Soviet visa. He stated that the <sup>from the Soviet Embassy in Mexico</sup> ~~the~~ American had returned and ~~stated~~ that he had been assured that there would be no problem. (Classified Staff Summary of Review of CIA Documents, 7/9/78, pp. 6-7, CIA Nos. 320-321; Cable from Mexico City to the Director, 11/23/63, Mexi 725, CIA Nos. 218-219; CIA Transcript from Russian Embassy, 9/27/63, CIA No. 27)



On Nov 24, 1963, Headquarters yet worried about what

Oswald may have told Sylvia Danson about his future plans. In

a cable from Headquarters to the Mexico City Station, headquarters wrote

"after analyzing all the traffic and reading the statement one important

question still puzzles us. When <sup>Oswald</sup> she was in Mexico City in late

September and early October to get a Soviet visa and a Cuban transit

visa, did he want to travel to Cuba right away, alone, or have

his wife join him there and then leave for Cuba, or did he

plan to return to the states first and then leave later.

Although it appears that he was then thinking only about a peaceful

change of residence to the Soviet Union, it is also possible

that he was getting documented to make a quick escape after

assassinating the president. Please study your memory material

and give us your opinion, and also have Mexican questions

Sylvia Danson very carefully on this point. Address: (Cable from C.I.A. Headquarters to Mexico City Station, Nov 24, 1963, D/C 84920, C.I.A. No. 412; Chronology of Anne Kerpel's Nov 24, 1963, only no 57, C.I.A. No. 140).

On November 25<sup>th</sup>, C.I.A. Washington Headquarters requested a Mexico City

Station cable summary of all station information on Sylvia T. Danson. They also

requested that Item 9 be given as to her knowledge of the

Harvey Oswald's contacts with the Cuban and Soviet Embassies. (Cable from

November 25, 1963, entry no. 87, CIA No. 647.)

The Mexico City Station replied to DIRB4926 on the same day sending the Headquarters all the information they possessed on Sylvia Duman and stating that Lateral-9 had disclaimed any knowledge of the Oswald visits. (Cable from Mexico City Station to Headquarters, Nov. 25, 1963, Mexi 7065, CIA No 400; Chronology of Anne Goodpasture, Nov. 25, 1963, entry no. 88, CIA no. 647.)

Not only was the Central Intelligence Agency concerned with Mrs. Duman's statements but ~~so was~~ the Cuban government was <sup>also</sup> concerned. In a conversation between <sup>there</sup> President Dorticos and Cuban Ambassador Joaquin Hernandez Armas, Dorticos asked Hernandez Armas if the Mexican government offered Sylvia Duman any money so that she would say that Emilio Aguirre had offered money to the American (i.e. Harvey Oswald). (Cable from Mexico City Station to Headquarters, Nov. 25, 1963, Mexi 7068, CIA No. 392; Chronology of Anne Goodpasture, Nov. 25, 1963, entry no. 95, CIA no. 648.)

In a cable dated Nov. 26, 1963, Ambassador Mann requested that Dean Rusk, McCone and Hoover be given the following suggestions from himself, Winston Scott and Clark Anderson. In view of the report from Alvarado Ugarte and the conversation between Dorticos and Hernandez Armas that Sylvia Duman be told - that she is the only living non-Cuban woman and hence she is in the same position that

Oswald was in view to the assassination, she should also be told that her only chance for survival is to come clean with the whole story and to cooperate completely with the Mexican government in return for Mexican government protection. They also suggest that the Mexicans request Sylvia Duman immediately so as to eliminate the possibility of her being smuggled out of Mexico to Cuba or killed here. (Cable from Mexico City Station to Headquarters, November 26, 1963, Mexi 7072, CIA No. 387; Chronology of Anne Goodpasture, November 26, 1963, entry no. 97, CIA no. 649.)

On November 26, the Mexican government forwarded copies of Sylvia Duman's signed statement to the Central Intelligence Agency (See previous section.)

On November 27, 1963, Washington CIA Headquarters asked the Mexico City Station to request the Mexican authorities to interrogate Sylvia Duman to the extent necessary to clarify the outstanding points which had been raised in their earlier the previous 48 hrs. Headquarters stated that the Mexico City Station could provide questions to the Mexican interrogators but that they wished that no Americans come in contact with Duman. (Cable CIA Headquarters to Mexico City Station, Nov 27, 1963, DM 85318, CIA No. 497; Chronology of Anne Goodpasture

On November 27, 1963, the Chief of Station was notified by Luis Echevarria at 1215 that Sylvia Duman had been rearrested because she was attempting to leave Mexico for Cuba. (Cable to Headquarters from Mexico City, November 27, 1963, Mexi 7101, CIA no. 493; Chronology of Anne Goodpasture, November 27, 1963, entry no. 125, CIA no. 655)

On November 27, 1963, Ambassador Mann requested the Mexico City Station to pass a cable to Secretary of State Dean Rusk with three principal developments since the previous cable: (see p. 21 Sylvia Duman write-up)

- ① involving Alvarado Ugarte and getting him against Duman
- ② arrest of Sylvia Duman
- ③ request for arrest of Eusebio Aguirre, Alfredo Muebel, Lucia Calles and red-headed negro. (Cable Mexico City Station to Headquarters, November 27, 1963, Mexi 7104, CIA no. 481; Chronology of Anne Goodpasture, November 27, 1963, entry no. 126, CIA no. 655)

On November 27, 1963, the Mexico City Station sent a photostatic copy of Sylvia Duman's ten page signed statement <sup>to Headquarters</sup>. (Cable Mexico City Station to Headquarters, November 27, 1963, Mexi 7105, CIA No. 479; Chronology of Anne Goodpasture, November 27, 1963, entry no. 127, CIA no. 656.)

On November 28, 1963, the Central Intelligence Agency's Washington Headquarters sent a clarification cable to <sup>the</sup> Mexico City Station stating that they wanted to insure that neither Sylvia Duman nor the Chans got the impression that the Americans were behind her arrest.

They stated, "we want the Mexican authorities to take the responsibility for the whole affair." (Cable from Headquarters to the Mexican City Station, November 28, 1963, C.I.A. No. 464; Chronology of Anne Goodpasture, November 28, 1963, entry no. 141, C.I.A. No. 658)

On November 28, 1963, the Mexican City Station sent a cable to the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency stating that Litzmud-9 had reported on Nov. 27, 1963, that Sylvia Duman's arrest was public knowledge in the Cuban Embassy. He also reported that on November 25, 1963

when Duman returned to her office she seemed quite pleased with her performance. She stated that <sup>although</sup> the Mexican police had threatened her with extradition to the United States, she had no fear of confinement.

(Cable from Mexican City Station to the Director, November 28, 1963, Mexi 7115, C.I.A. No. 463; Chronology of Anne Goodpasture, November 28, 1963, entry no. 154, C.I.A. No. 662)

On November 28, 1963, the Mexican City Station sent a cable to the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency stating that the arrest of Sylvia Duman on the Government of Mexico's initiative without consulting the Mexican City Station showed a great desire from the Mexican authorities to be of service. The cable also stated that the Mexican

The Mexico City Station would make no official request for her continued detention; that the decision must be the Mexican government.

(Cable from Mexico City Station to Headquarters, November 28, 1963, Mex 7118, CIA No 461, Chronology of Anne Hodgson, November 28, 1963, entry no 156, CIA No 662)

On November 29, 1963, Echevarria advised Chief of Station, Winston Smith, that Sylvia Duran had been released at 7:00 p.m. Mexico City time on November 28. Echevarria further stated that

Duran is under close surveillance and will be apprehended any time they received information to warrant it. Echevarria also stated that Sylvia Duran still appeared to the Mexicans to have been involved only in the business of obtaining Cuban and Soviet visas for Oswald (Cable from Mexico City Headquarters to Director, November 29, 1963, Mex 7125, CIA No 459; Chronology of Anne Hodgson, November 29, 1963, entry no 164, CIA No 663)

On November 29, 1963, <sup>the CIA Wash Hqs</sup> asked the Mexico City Station to keep them informed on the status of the interrogations of Sylvia Duran, Alberto Ugarte and others implicated as early as possible. (Cable Headquarters to Mexico City Station, Nov 29, 1963, DIR 85672, CIA No 457; Chronology of Anne

On November 30, 1963, Headquarters requested the Mexico City Station to relay immediately all the information they received to the F.B.I. Legal <sup>Clark Anderson</sup> Attache in Mexico. (Cable from Headquarters to Mexico City Station, November 30, 1963, DIR 85712, CIA No. 454; Chronology of Anne Hodgastine, November 30, 1963, entry no. 174, CIA No. 665c.)

On December 12, 1963, Headquarters called Mexico City Station stating that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was pushing to wind up the analysis of Mexican aspects this case and urgently needs results from the interrogation of Sylvia Duran and her husband during their second arrest. Headquarters conjectured that Duran may not have been interrogated at all during her second arrest but that Mexico City should find out the facts and advise. (Cable Headquarters to Mexico City Station, Dec. 12, 1963, DIR 88642, CIA No. 559; Chronology of Anne Hodgastine, Dec. 12, 1963, entry no. 251, CIA No. 679.)

On December 12, 1963 Mexico City Station called the results of the second interrogation of Sylvia Duran, to Headquarters. (See previous portion; Cable from Mexico City Station to Director, December 12, 1963, Mex 7364, CIA No. 557-8; Chronology of Anne Hodgastine, Dec. 12, 1963, entry no. 252, CIA No. 679.)



in passing information to the Warren Commission was to eliminate mention of telephone taps in order to protect their continuing operations.

The Central Intelligence Agency will rely instead on Sylvia Duran's statements and on the Soviet Consular files which the Soviets gave the State Department.

Headquarters stressed that exact, detailed information from Itamar 7 and 9 on just what Sylvia Duran and other officials said about Oswald's visits and his dealings would be valuable and usable corroborative evidence. (CIA Cable from Headquarters to Mexico City Station, Dec. 21, 1963, DIR 90466, CIA No. 549; Chronology

of Anne Goodpasture, Dec. 21, 1963, entry no. 268, CIA No. 682.)

On January 2, 1964, Mexico City Station explained to Headquarters that Itamar-9 had nothing additionally to offer beyond account of Mexi 7115 (see previous section) except <sup>that</sup> <sup>HAD</sup> <sup>she</sup> <sup>WAS</sup> <sup>perfectly</sup> <sup>willing</sup> <sup>to</sup> travel to the United States to confront Oswald if necessary. (Cable Mexico City Station to Headquarters, January 2, 1964, Mexi 7615, CIA No. 545; Chronology of Anne Goodpasture Jan. 2, 1964, entry no. 271, CIA No. 682.)

On April 7, 1964, Headquarters called the Mexico City Station that they wished to alert them that three members of Warren of the Warren Commission Messrs. Willens, Slanson, and Coleman would arrive without publicity on tourist cards April 8 to confer with the Mexico City Station about the investigative

purpose is to assure themselves about the investigations' completeness.

(Cable Headquarters to Mexico City Station, April 7, 1964, D/R 12633, C/A # 535;

Chronology of Anne Goodpasture, April 7, 1963, entry no. 319, C/A No. 698)

On April 8, 1964, Headquarters called the Mexico City Station - that

the Warren Commission Staffers want to know if the Mexican government has

<sup>more</sup> further written investigative reports, instant classification of many points in the

FBI <sup>investigation</sup> and in general want to know if all the possible steps were taken.

Headquarters called that some of the highly touchy subjects they will discuss are

whether they should talk to the Mexican officials themselves, whether they

should try to talk to Sylvia Duman in Mexico at the Consulate and whether

the Mexicans will let them gullible what they did in the whole case. Headquarters

<sup>also</sup> further called that the Warren Commission staffers know the Central Intelligence

Agency had tag assets and that they may have guessed from the

coverage that they had photo joints and a source in the Cuban Embassy

but that they do not know the details or the Agency's arrangements

with the Mexicans. Headquarters further called that the Chief of Station

should send them all the needed assistance with the minimum

possible disclosure of assets and techniques. (Cable Headquarters to

the Mexico City Station, April 8, 1964, D/R 13026, C/A No. 533; Chronology

April 8, 1964, entry no. 320, C/A No. 698)

On April 11, 1964, the Warren Commission staffers requested a complete written report of the "measures taken and investigations made" by the Mexican authorities after the assassination. They promised that any portion they wished to publish in the Committee report would be cleared with the Mexican authorities prior to publication. (Cable from Mexico City Station to Headquarters, April 11, 1964, Mexi 8984, CIA No. 528; Chronology of Anne Goodpastore, April 11, 1964, entry no. 333, CIA No. 700)

On May <sup>26</sup> 29, 1964, the Mexico City Station called (to Headquarters) a copy of the official report on Sylvia Duan, as a response to the request made to Luis Echevarria, Acting Minister of Education, by the three staff members of the Warren Commission who visited Mexico in April 1964. (Dispatch to Chief of WH Division from Chief of Station at Mexico City, May 26, 1964, HMMMA-23520, CIA No. 516; Chronology of Anne Goodpastore, May 26, 1964, entry no. 346, CIA No. 705)

in a cable from Headquarters to the Mexico City Station, Headquarters reported that on Sept 16, 1964, a member of the Warren Commission discussing Sylvia Duan's handwriting sample asked if there was information available on the current status of her morale, attitude and current employment. Headquarters also believed that the Warren Commission might want Duan to verify that she completed Oswald's visa application papers. (Cable Headquarters to Mexico

(Goodpasture, Sept. 16, 1964, entry no. 370, CIA No. 709.)

On Sept. 16, 1964, the Warren Commission requested any substantive data which could be cited in a published report as an authoritative source of the allegations that Sylvia Duran and her husband were or are members of the Communist party. (Cable Headquarters to Mexico City Station, Sept. 16, 1964, DIR 49941, CIA No. 622; Chronology of Anne Goodpasture, Sept. 16, 1964, entry no. 371, CIA No. 709.)

On Sept. 18, 1964, Headquarters <sup>from the MCS</sup> inquired about the authenticity of Oswald's visa application. Headquarters also asked for other examples or blanks for comparison and possible authentication. (Cable Headquarters to Mexico City Station, Sept. 18, 1964, DIR 50732, CIA No. 621; Chronology of Anne Goodpasture, Sept. 18, 1964, entry no. 372, CIA No. 710.)

On Sept. 19, 1964, Headquarters learned that Mrs. Duran was no longer in Mexico but that her husband, Horatio, had kept up payments on rent, light bills, and seemed to live as well as ever. The source of this income was unknown. (Cable Mexico City Station to Headquarters, Sept. 19, 1964, Mexi 0930, CIA No. 619; Chronology of Anne Goodpasture, Sept. 19, 1964, entry no. 373, CIA No. 710.)

On September 30, the Mexico City Station learned that Sylvia  
Duman had been on an excursion with some students to Isla Mujeres  
and Merida. (Cable Mexico City Station to Headquarters, October 5, 1964, Mex- 1120,  
CIA No. 598; Chronology of Anne Hordogian, Oct 5, 1964, entry no 393, CIA No. 598)